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"We're very preoccupied and worried that unemployment is going to rise sharply. Is the EI change sufficient...?" Liberals' Michael Ignatieff



"In today's budget, he prioritized \$60 billion in corporate tax cuts and only \$1.15 billion for the unemployed." NDP's Jack Layton



"They're not targeted enough. (There is) nothing in (the Conservative's budget) to obtain our support." BQ's Gilles Duceppe

Budget bleeds red

Tories project deficits until 2013 to battle recession

The Conservatives delivered a fixer-upper budget meant to rebuild the economy and get Canadians working, pumping \$40 billion over two years into everything from income tax cuts and help for home renovations to increased jobless benefits and cash for urban reconstruction.

Canadians will find out today if the Conservatives' economic safety net has earned the support of federal Liberals.

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff offered a mixed review but said he would announce this morning whether to vote down the budget — and defeat Prime Minister Stephen Harper's minority government.

Ignatieff said the budget's big-ticket spending and new assistance for the jobless was a "positive" response to "the combined pressure of the opposition parties," which threatened to topple the government.

Cuts in hindsight

- Harper's cut to the Goods and Services Tax from seven to six per cent, then to five per cent has been projected to cost federal coffers about \$12 billion in 2009-10.

But the Liberal leader questioned whether Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has done enough to improve employment insurance (EI) benefits and whether funds for infrastructure will flow quickly.

The Conservatives boast the budget, aimed at reducing the impact of a growing global recession, will create or maintain close to 190,000 jobs. But the Tories are forecasting a \$34-billion deficit in the next fiscal year

and deficits totalling almost \$85 billion over five years. Not until 2013 does the budget forecast a surplus. Flaherty defended the "temporary" deficit spending, calling it "necessary to stimulate our economy."

NDP Leader Jack Layton quickly criticized the budget. He said it is "absolutely" Ignatieff's responsibility to defeat the budget as it fails to meet "at a minimum" the tests Ignatieff set for his support. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty pauses as delivers his budget in the House of Commons yesterday. The Conservatives' budget will run a deficit of \$34 billion in the next fiscal year.

Budget Highlights

- Cut personal taxes by \$20 billion over six years, including raising the upper limit of the two lowest personal income-tax brackets.
- Cut business taxes by \$2 billion over six years.
- \$7.8 billion for social housing and private home renovation, including a one-year home renovation tax credit of up to \$1,350 per household.
- \$12 billion (\$7 billion in new cash) for infrastructure spending, with \$1 billion for green infrastructure, and \$1 billion for clean-energy research.
- \$2.7 billion in short-term loans to the auto industry.
- \$8.3 billion for skills and training.
- Extend EI benefits by five weeks for two years.

Canada 2009

Federal Budget

- Budget to benefit Ottawa, MP John Baird says pg 2
- Reaction across Canada pg 2
- Ignatieff to decide Tories', coalition's fate pg 6
- Green plan panned pg 7
- Kate MacNamara on following Bob the Builder pg 8
- Business groups happy pg 9

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A 59-year-old Ottawa man involved in a crash earlier this month has died from his injuries. Police said yesterday they now believe the male driver of a blue Jeep lost control of his vehicle and crossed the centre line sideways on Prince of Wales Drive near Crestway Drive on Jan. 15. Conditions were cold and slippery at the time. **METRO OTTAWA**

Local



Burning-car incident under investigation

Gatineau police are investigating a suspicious fire after a car reported stolen Sunday was found on fire late Monday night. Const. Isabelle Poirier said that at 11:50 p.m. Monday, police attended a call at a marina on the Outaouais River in Aylmer, where a Chevrolet Corsica was found on fire.

METRO OTTAWA

Ottawa OC Transpo Strike

Strike talks stall again

TRANSIT Talks are off. Stating that the city "failed to significantly alter its position," the union representing 2,300 striking OC Transpo employees said negotiations have broken off. "The city failed to change its key offers," said Amalgamated Transit Union Local 279 president Andre Cornellier. "There is no evidence that the city's bargaining committee really has a 'new' mandate. The city must stop stalling, get serious and get rolling."

After an emergency meeting last Saturday, city council voted a new mandate for the negotiating team.

In an effort to arrive at a solution, the city offered to remove the \$2,500 productivity bonus in return for two per cent more over the remaining two years. The city also offered to set up a temporary joint management/union committee to devise a scheduling system.

METRO OTTAWA

metronews.ca WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Budget Full coverage of the federal budget, including opposition reaction, highlights and hits and misses at metronews.ca/canada

Blogs Famous People Are Weird on Madonna's newest disguise at metronews.ca

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 1 4 3; Ontario Pick 4: 2 4 7 3

Encore: 8212530

Daily Keno: 1, 3, 4, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 28, 31, 33, 39, 45, 48, 52, 53, 55, 57, 70

These results are not official.

Budget good for city, says Baird

TIM WIECLAWSKI
tim.wieclawski@metronews.ca

The 2009 federal budget is good news for residents in Ottawa, according to Ottawa West-Nepean Conservative MP John Baird.

The minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities said people in Ottawa will see benefits from substantial funds set aside for investing in municipal infrastructure, rehabilitating social housing and for the new construction trades building at Algonquin College.

With the closing of Chaudiere Bridge in mind, the federal government has set aside \$42 million to repair federal bridges in Ottawa.

Baird said he was confident that the steps taken would gain sufficient support to pass in the House of Commons.

At around 300 pages, Ottawa-Vanier Liberal Mauril Belanger said his party would be taking their time to properly analyze the budget.

First big announcement for post-secondary in years: MBA director

• The federal budget contained lots of good news for students, said Ian Lee, MBA director for the Sprott School of Business at Carleton University.

There was an announcement of \$2 billion for the renewal and refurbishment of buildings at universities and colleges across Canada, said Lee.

"That's good because universities and colleges are educating the next generation, who are replacing the boomers who are retiring soon," said Lee.

A student at the University of Ottawa, Adrienne Walton followed the federal budget yesterday to see — for better or for worse — how student life would be impacted.



Full-time uOttawa nursing student Adrienne Walton.

Walton, 31, recently returned to school full time for her bachelor of science and nursing degree after working as a registered practical nurse for a year.

Canada 2009

Federal Budget

"It would be nice to have halls that are updated," she said. "The halls are so old fashioned and the spaces are cramped."

Walton, who also followed the budget to find out what the federal government has allotted for long-term care, said she wanted to see more money filtered into universities and colleges.

The government should also find a way to keep tuition fees down, said Walton.

"Tuition fees have been steadily going up. I think a lot of people will have a heavy debt load when they get out."

This is the first big announcement for post-secondary made by the feds in many years, said Lee. And because Ottawa has several post-secondary institutions, this is particularly good news for the city, he said.

"The whole budget was focused on getting the economy moving again," said Lee. "The recession falls more heavily on young people, so any attempts to resuscitate and turn around the economy will benefit young people because they have higher unemployment rates."

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Launch Shooting star



Founder and chairman of the Virgin Group Sir Richard Branson, right, hams it up with former Senators goalie Ron Tugnutt at Lansdowne Park. The duo took part in a soccer shootout that netted \$5,000 for the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. Branson came to Ottawa yesterday to launch Virgin Radio 106.9.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Reaction across the Country

Halifax — Senior citizen

Marilyn Peers saw some new money for seniors in the federal budget, but the 77-year-old Halifax resident hoped for more.

"It's going to be worse than better in the near future, and (seniors) have a lot of concern for our adult children, as well as how it will affect us," she said last night.

Toronto — Single-income family

A young family with only one full-time income, the Melvilles say they weren't expecting much on a personal level from the federal budget.

The most significant detail in the budget for the Melvilles was the home renovation tax credit,

which they said they'll make good use of.

Calgary — Double income family (\$150K), 2 kids

Mike April, a Calgary small business owner, proud husband and father of two, said as far as his family goes, there wasn't a lot that he could see directly benefiting them in the budget — aside from the tax cuts.

According to Dean Paley, tax professional for Edward Jones Canada, the Aprils will see that tax relief — to the tune of about \$350 per year.

Edmonton — Single parent

For single father Warren Dahlen, yesterday's federal budget announcement means

he should be able to keep putting food on the table in front of his two young daughters.

The federal government has promised \$12 billion for infrastructure, which is good news for the 40-year-old electrician, whose employment is only secured by new construction.

Vancouver — Same-sex couple

Karen Chan, 29, and Amy Romanas, 35, were married last January and are filing their tax returns together for the first time.

They will save \$1,100 in taxes this year thanks to almost \$20 billion over five years in tax relief announced in yesterday's budget. Combined, the couple earns about \$100,000 annually.

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OTTAWA'S WEATHER LEADER

Atheist ad campaign targets Calgary

The Freethought Association of Canada is targeting Calgary for its next round of advertising intended to promote atheism, CBC News Online reports. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

3

Canada



Four people were arrested yesterday as 200 members of CUPE and their supporters rallied in downtown Toronto. The rally was to protest back-to-work legislation proposed by the Ontario government as it attempts to intervene in a strike at York University.

Strike takes ugly turn

Protesters clash with police outside Queen's Park

As debate on back-to-work legislation continued for the third day at the Ontario legislature yesterday, four protesters were arrested while they made their way from the ministry of labour offices to the legislature.

The two men and two women were arrested after an officer contacted his dispatcher to say "he needed assistance," said Toronto police Const. Tony Vella, a media spokesperson. Bystanders who witnessed the protest also contacted police to say an officer needed help, Vella added.

Charges include assaulting police officers and obstructing police, according to Vella. "Four officers sus-

"We are in a deadlock ... legislation is the only certain way to make it (end) now."

Alex Bilyk, York University

tained minor injuries," he said. "All four are being charged."

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, stung by accusations of fumbling the York University strike, says the government is exploring a new commission that would intervene when campus labour disputes are getting out of hand.

CUPE President Sid Ryan said that if back-to-work legislation passes today or tomorrow, CUPE may be forced to launch a court action on the basis that it

violates the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"If we pursue it, the strike will be prolonged," Ryan told a news conference at Queen's Park yesterday. "We don't want to go down that road."

York officials say the two sides are at a true impasse, said Alex Bilyk, a university spokesperson. "We are in a deadlock," he said. "This legislation is the only certain way to make it (end) now."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

GREYHOUND A man attacked the driver of a Greyhound bus en route from Detroit to Toronto yesterday. There were 11 people on board. The driver, a 51-year-old man, fought off the attacker and averted tragedy. The attacker was arrested under the Mental Health Act and taken to a hospital for minor injuries and a psychiatric assessment.

ALBERTA The rapid-fire development of Alberta's oilsands region has garnered a new critic — Luc Bouchard, bishop of the diocese of St. Paul, which covers nearly 156,000 square kilometres of Alberta. The bishop said in a letter this week that "the integrity of creation in the Athabasca oilsands is clearly being sacrificed for economic gain."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Icebreaker stuck in ice before freeing cruise ship

QUEBEC It wasn't something they had expected, getting stuck in the thick ice of the St. Lawrence River. Neither did the 300 guests aboard the Vacancier cruise ship expect the Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker that came to get them out would suffer the same fate.

But the icebreaker Terry Fox, considered one of Canada's two "heavy" icebreakers, did itself get caught up in the ice leading some to wonder whether the coast guard has adequate icebreaking capabilities, in

spite of the fact that Canada is an Arctic country.

"I was surprised to see it having such a hard time," said James Gray, a passenger on the Vacancier. "It's not a big icebreaker and the ice here is pretty exceptional ... I don't think we're really well-equipped in Canada to break the ice."

"It's not a big icebreaker and the ice here is pretty exceptional."

Vacancier passenger

A coast guard communications officer denied the Terry Fox got stuck. "It just had difficulty to move in the ice," she said. "There is a difference."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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4

New British laws crack down on deadbeat parents
Parents in Britain who refuse to pay child maintenance could have their passports and driver's licences confiscated without a court order under tough new laws. **REUTERS**

World

World exhaling sigh of relief, Clinton says

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton suggested yesterday the world was breathing a sigh of relief that President Barack Obama had replaced George W. Bush and was working to fix the damage he had caused.

In her first news conference as top U.S. diplomat, Clinton said excitement over the change in power was "reinforced time and time again" during recent welcome calls with foreign counterparts.

"There is a great exhalation of breath going on in the world as people ex-

press their appreciation for the new direction that's being set and the team that is put together by the president," Clinton said.

"We have a lot of damage to repair."

Clinton said her remarks should not be viewed as a wholesale repudiation of the Bush administration, adding there would be continuity on some policies.

Many Arab and European allies opposed the Bush administration's invasion of Iraq and its human rights record, including treatment of terror suspects. Generally, world

Position on Israel

- Clinton said yesterday she believes Israel had a right to defend itself, and that Palestinian rocket attacks from Gaza on the Jewish state could not go unanswered.

leaders have praised Obama's election but analysts say his honeymoon could be short-lived as he tries to grapple with the global economic crunch, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Arab-Israeli conflict and other challenges. **REUTERS**

25 bodies found in Madagascar department store

ANTANANARIVO Firefighters found 25 charred bodies in a looted department store in Madagascar's capital yesterday, a day after the worst anti-government violence in years on the island.

Antananarivo's mayor and opposition leader Andry Rajoelina called for peaceful protests against President Marc Ravalomanana to resume today.

On Monday tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets, burning the state-owned television and radio station when protests turned violent. A teenager and a policeman were killed.

Residents said gangs had ransacked shops linked to the president overnight.

REUTERS

Georgia Seeking asylum



Alexander Glukhov, a Russian soldier, speaks to journalists at a McDonald's restaurant in Tbilisi. Glukhov said he deserted Russian forces in South Ossetia to escape mistreatment, but Moscow said the man was abducted and demanded his return.

Israeli planes strike Gaza border tunnels: Officials

STRIKES Israeli aircraft struck at tunnels used for smuggling goods and weapons on the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt yesterday, residents of the Gaza town of Rafah Hamas officials said.

Rafah residents began to flee homes in panic as the aircraft struck three times before dawn, Hamas officials said. There was no initial word of any casualties.

The strike came as an ap-

parent response to an earlier attack by Gaza militants on an Israeli military vehicle hit by a roadside bomb while patrolling the Gaza border, killing one soldier and injuring three.

An air strike later killed one Palestinian, but Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said that it was only an initial reaction and that Israel's full response was still to come, Israeli media reported. **REUTERS**

News in brief

BULGARIA An armed man surrendered to police after hijacking a bus and holding 37 people aboard hostage for two hours in Bulgaria yesterday. The 33-year-old man, who officials said had mental health problems, had forced the bus driver to stop at a gas station.

OCTUPLETS A California woman shocked doctors by giving birth on Monday to octuplets, believed to be only the second set of eight babies born successfully in the U.S. The six boys and two girls were doing well and were in stable condition, doctors said. **REUTERS**

Photo: Cliff Watts

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Federal

Budget 2009

Big spenders

Pierre Trudeau and Brian Mulroney both spent Canada deeper and deeper into debt during the 1970s, 1980s and early 1990s. Trudeau failed to balance the books for 15 years as prime minister. Mulroney never managed to produce a surplus.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tories await their fate

NDP, Bloc immediately condemn budget; Liberal decision today

The fate of the Conservative government lies with Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff, who says he is concerned the Harper government has underestimated the economic crisis.

Ignatieff, who met with his Liberal caucus last night, was to announce today whether his party would support the government's economic plan, or possibly join with the NDP and the Bloc Québécois to defeat the Conservatives in the Commons.

There was talk among some Liberals last night about possibly proposing an amendment to the budget to address some of the party's concerns.

New Democrat Leader Jack Layton and Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe swiftly condemned the budget as a failed "ideological" document that does not address the needs of the jobless and the most vulnerable, nor move Canada toward a greener economy.

Their parties intend to vote to defeat the government on the budget, and Layton publicly pressured Ignatieff to do the same.

Layton said the budget fails on the very tests — helping the most vulnerable, protecting the jobs of today and creating jobs for tomorrow — that Ignatieff had set out.

"He has a choice to make," Layton told reporters. "It's either to prop up the Harper government and allow it to continue in a fashion that is clearly wrong-headed, or to pursue the agenda laid out by the



Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe, left, talks with New Democratic Party Leader Jack Layton yesterday in the foyer of the House of Commons on Parliament Hill after listening to the budget speech.

"He has a choice to make. It's either to prop up the Harper government and allow it to continue in a fashion that is clearly wrong-headed, or to pursue the agenda laid out by the coalition, which would create jobs for the future and would transform our economy and would really protect the people who are suffering the most from the economic crisis."

NDP Leader Jack Layton on Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff

coalition, which would create jobs for the future and would transform our economy and would really protect

the people who are suffering the most from the economic crisis."

Layton was referring to

the agreement signed by the Liberals and NDP in December to form a coalition, supported by the Bloc, to re-

place the Conservative government.

Ignatieff, however, said yesterday the Conservative budget contained "some positive elements" that he credited to the political pressure brought to bear by the united opposition parties before Christmas.

He said there are also "negative aspects."

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
MORE ON IGNATIEFF'S
DECISION, PAGE 7**

EI benefits extended five weeks

Ottawa's plan to extend employment insurance by five weeks is better than nothing, say some workers struggling with job loss and an uncertain future.

But for those whose EI has already run out, yesterday's federal budget offered little comfort.

Economists, labour groups and business leaders had also called on Ottawa to end regional inequities in the system

that make it easier for the unemployed in some parts of the country to qualify than in others.

They note that reforms during the 1990s to limit access and benefits to employment insurance have resulted in a program that covers barely half of unemployed workers in Canada today. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Losses

• With recent job losses topping 100,000 and the threat of another 250,000 Canadians being thrown out of work in the coming year, the lack of major EI reforms is the budget's biggest weakness, said economist Armine Yalnizyan of the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

More to be taken off tax rolls

RELIEF In a something-for-everyone budget, the Conservative government has proposed widespread tax relief for small businesses, homeowners, seniors, and low- and middle-income Canadians.

The budget calls for tax measures that will leave more money in more people's pockets, including the sprawling middle class, whose support the Conservatives covet.

The moves will take an additional 265,000 Canadians off the tax rolls altogether, largely through changes to the basic personal income tax exemption and to the seniors' age credit.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Many wild cards in play for future of the economy

The federal budget is a "prudent" prescription to help heal Canada's ailing economy, but the modest stimulus spending and tax cuts alone may not be enough to pull Canada out of its deepening recession, economists said yesterday.

Dubbing the budget "Canada's economic action plan," Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said the measures were aimed at resuscitating consumer spending and

Savings to trickle down

• Economists said the permanent nature of tax breaks would help those savings trickle down

into the real economy, contrasting them with the temporary tax rebates doled out to Ameri-

cans last year. Lower-income Canadians, they say, have a greater propensity to consume.

protecting increasingly vulnerable jobs amid a worsening global recession.

Flaherty said measures to shore up the sputtering economy must begin within the next 120 days to be

effective. Overall, the government hopes its action plan will create or preserve up to 190,000 jobs for Canadians by the end of 2010.

Private sector econo-

mists, however, stressed the outlook for the global economy remains clouded. There are many wild cards, including the future direction of commodity prices and the timing of any even-

tual economic recovery in the United States — not to mention the future health of Canada's own housing and stock markets.

Since the global economic meltdown was originally sparked by events outside this country's borders, the government's "made-in-Canada" solution is unlikely to be a cure-all for the domestic economic funk.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No substance, says Greenpeace spokesperson

"There's a total lack of vision," said Stephen Gilbeault from Greenpeace. "What they're trying to do is talk green and look green, but there's no substance to it." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

canada 7

Federal Budget 2009

It's not easy being green

Critics pan largest environmental stimulus in Canadian history

It was the largest green stimulus in Canadian history, according to the federal Environment minister, but elements of the budget plan that use the environment to revamp the economy fell short of many expectations.

Yesterday's budget contained more than \$3 billion to develop clean technologies, build environmentally-sustainable infrastructure and improve energy efficiency in homes.

"The provisions in the budget relating to the environment are very significant," Environment Minister Jim Prentice told Torstar News Service. "When you add all this up, it's certainly the largest green stimulus that we've ever seen."

But critics say the federal government's plans fall far short of national public transit and other infrastructure needs while spending too much taxpayers' money in Alberta's oil sands and not enough on renewable energy.

There were at least two mentions of carbon capture



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, left, shakes hands with Prime Minister Stephen Harper yesterday after delivering the federal budget in the House of Commons.

and storage projects that store greenhouse gas emissions underground in a section of the budget that outlines the five-year, \$1-billion clean energy fund, noted

Stephen Gilbeault of Greenpeace.

The government also earmarked \$292 million to help develop the CANDU nuclear reactor and operate

the Chalk River facility.

The new clean energy fund is "an excellent start," but it is important to rapidly increase funding for renewable energy projects, both to

keep up with the pace that is being set in Washington by U.S. President Barack Obama and to help emerging Canadian companies stay competitive, said Vicky Sharpe, president and chief executive of Sustainable Development Technology Canada.

Obama has vowed to double energy production from renewable sources in three years as part of his stimulus package.

"We're either going to be technology takers or makers, and so if we're going to see an upswing in support for clean technology development in the U.S. then I think we need to be matching that," Sharpe said.

The government wants 90 per cent of energy from clean sources by 2020, a goal that is dependent on shutting down Ontario's coal-fired electricity plants and switching to hydro, nuclear and natural gas as power sources, Prentice said. Wind and solar power can also play a smaller role, he added.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Then & now

Jim Flaherty on the Economy

Oct. 7, 2008:

"We had a surplus in the first quarter of this year ... which is, in fact, ahead of track on our budget assumptions. So I'm quite comfortable that we're on track, in fact, a little bit better than on track, for this fiscal year."

Oct. 24, 2008

"I can assure you that we remain on track for a balanced budget this fiscal year with a modest surplus by the end of the fiscal year."

Oct. 27, 2008:

"Canada will be the envy of other industrialized nations."

Nov. 13, 2008

"We won't take steps that will hurt the real economy just for the sake of having a small surplus."

Dec. 11, 2008

"It's quite clear on the basis of the forecasts and the continuing declines in the forecast that there will be a deficit."

Dec. 12, 2008

"We are living in extraordinary times ... Panicking and making the wrong choices would be devastating for the Canadian economy."

Jan. 21, 2009

"We will not create a permanent, long-term deficit for Canada ... In our economic plan, we will show how we will exit from deficit as the economy exits from recession."

Jan. 27, 2009

"As the economy recovers, we fully expect to emerge from deficit and return to surplus within five years ... While our projections are based on the best information available, we cannot guarantee them absolutely."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tories boost spending for less fortunate

PRESSURE The Conservative government was under more political pressure than usual to boost social spending as the would-be coalition was on the lookout for whether it would help those that the economic crisis has left most vulnerable.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty set the tone by making it clear the budget yesterday was not one for a time of prosperity, but one that would do what it could to keep the economy moving while protecting its citizens from the worst effects of the slowdown.

"We will need to spend more to protect our economy and help Canadians hit hardest by the global recession," Flaherty said in his speech in the House of Commons yesterday.

Nicholas Gazzard, executive director of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada, said he believes the political crisis had something to do with the social spending included in the budget yesterday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It's your move, Iggy

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff laid out three tests to determine whether his party will support the budget. Here are the tests and some budget offerings that might satisfy his demands:

Protect the vulnerable

- Extension of employment insurance benefits by five weeks for the next two years.
- Extension of protections to safeguard severance and termination pay for workers hit by company bankruptcies.
- Greater tax relief from the working income tax benefit to encourage low-income Canadians to find and keep jobs.
- Up to \$150 in tax savings for low- and middle-income seniors through an increase in age credit amount.
- \$1 billion for renovating social housing.

Protect the jobs of today

- \$12 billion over two years for new infrastructure spending.
- \$7.8 billion in tax relief and funding to stimulate the housing sector and improve housing.
- \$170 million toward a "more sus-

tainable and competitive" forestry sector.

Create jobs for tomorrow

- \$55 million over two years to help young Canadians find summer jobs, giving them valuable experience in the work force.
- \$2 billion to repair, retrofit and expand facilities at post-secondary institutions.
- \$750 million for leading-edge research infrastructure through the Canada Foundation for Innovation.
- \$110 million to the Canadian Space Agency for more advanced robotics and space technologies.

Did the budget pass Liberal muster? We find out today at 11 a.m. when Ignatieff announces whether his party will support it. Last night, the Liberal leader questioned whether the Conservatives had done enough for the unemployed and whether the infrastructure cash would be spent quickly enough.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

RENOVATIONS The Home Renovation Tax Credit (HRTC) is designed to get Canadians spending now to help create jobs in industries typically

hurt by an economic downturn. Effective today through Jan. 31, 2010, homeowners can claim a tax credit for 15 per cent of renovation

expenses between \$1,000 and \$10,000. The maximum tax credit (on \$9,000 in renovations) is worth \$1,350.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Steps added to prop up lending

CREDIT The federal government is bolstering efforts to keep credit flowing in Canada — its starkest acknowledgement to date that consumers and businesses are being increasingly squeezed by the global credit crunch.

The measures, announced in yesterday's federal budget strengthen Ottawa's previous actions to prop up lending by improving access to financing for both households and businesses. Officials said the Extraordinary Financing Framework would provide up to \$200 billion to fill gaps in credit markets.

The government is not only fortifying existing programs, it is taking a fresh stab at stemming the crisis through a slew of new actions. Some observers said that the bold approach signals that Canada's credit predicament is now worse than originally imagined.

The \$200-billion price tag is a combination of past programs and new endeavors.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Building in Bob's name

Can we fix it? How about can we afford it?

Usual Business

Kate MacNamara

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In spite of the \$40-billion stimulus package he brought down yesterday, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is not the man of the hour.

Neither is Opposition leader Michael Ignatieff, on whose shoulders the fate of this borrowed stimulus now rests. Nope.

It isn't even U.S. President Barack Obama as he leans on Washington lawmakers to pass his trillion-dollar spending plan.

The man who defines our time is Bob the Builder, the children's cartoon character.

Governments across the Western world, and now including our own, have stolen the little fella's show: Building houses, roads, bridges, schools, you get the idea.

The Conservatives says

they're putting shovels and hammers to work across the country, in order to make work, and lift a flagging economy.

All told new federal infrastructure spending will top \$11 billion.

Mr. Flaherty even filched the little guy's tradesman look when he donned steel-toed boots to fulfil the tradition of launching a budget in a pair of new shoes.

In fact, the only thing Mr. Flaherty didn't rip off was Bob's slogan: Can we

fix it?

To which his crew of animated bulldozers responds ... Yes we can.

Mr. Obama already filched it for his presidential campaign.

Canada 2009

Federal Budget

But all of this "shovel ready" business isn't the only expensive measure in this budget.

There are several billion dollars for re-training the unemployed.

Billions more in tax credits for everything from home renovations to computers.

There are income tax reductions and help for small businesses.

Aimed at the very special of special interests is the money to increase slaughterhouse square-footage, and the help for lumber mills to expand their sales in

Timbuktu.

There are also more sensible measures to help thaw tightening credit.

For example, there is more than \$60 billion available to buy loans from the balance sheets of banks and other lenders.

That might not have much curb appeal, but it may just mean cheaper and more ready mortgages and car loans for consumers.

Canada is well positioned in the face of a looming recession.

We are returning to deficit spending after 12 years of surpluses.

But Mr. Flaherty said yesterday he doesn't expect the government to return to balanced budgets until 2013.

The interceding years, he estimated, would heap a further \$85 billion on the national debt.

That leaves the question Bob's pint sized audience can afford to ignore — can we afford it?

Kate MacNamara is a business reporter for CBC radio. She lives in Bragg Creek, Alberta.



Quote of the Day

"My concerns about the budget are have they underestimated the seriousness of the crisis? If they make that judgment wrong, pretty well everything goes south, including their deficit projections."

— Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff

Word on the street: Was this a good budget?

Angela Leggett

Age: 35 Toronto

A: We just moved into a new house so that tax credit (home renovations) will allow me to spend a bit more money.

Billy O'Neill

Age: 34 Toronto

A: The budget fails to address the shortfalls in the employment insurance program. The temporary extension of five weeks is not enough.

Melinda Ainsworth-Roy

Age: 26 Ottawa

A: I'm generally suspicious of the Conservatives ... but from what I've seen so far, it looks hopeful.

Christy McGoldrick

Age: 29 Ottawa

A: They really packed a lot of spending and tax cuts into one budget. I like that there was \$12 billion for repairs to roads, sewers and universities.

William Rome

Age: 19 Ottawa

A: This is really going to help our economy in the long run and hopefully help us get out of the recession a bit quicker.

Kaley Kennedy

Federation of Students, Nova Scotia

A: We didn't see anything that's going to reduce student debt or reduce tuition fees.

Peter Kelly

Mayor, Halifax

A: It appears that they listened to us ... We're asking them to put a bit more meat on the bones so we actually know what we're eating.

Corinne McKetiak

Age: 21 Calgary

A: I was kind of worried they would have fancy fixes for everything ... it seems smart to give back to people so that they can spend.

Gregor Robertson

Mayor, Vancouver

A: We were really hoping for social-housing investment to deal with our homeless crisis here.



It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: ottawaletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Ex-IBM exec heads to Apple after legal battle

A lawsuit involving proprietary- and confidential-information protection that barred former IBM Corp. executive Mark Papermaster from joining Apple to lead its iPod and iPhone engineering teams has been resolved. **REUTERS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

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	C\$	81.55¢ US
	US\$	\$1.2263
	0.14¢	

OIL	
	\$41.58 US
	\$4.15

Inflation risk small: Carney

PAUL MCLEOD
Metro Canada



Canada got some good economic news for a change yesterday at a speech in Halifax.

Mark Carney, governor of the Bank of Canada, told the Halifax Chamber of Commerce that the country will likely avoid massive inflation.

Carney said Canada's banking system is strong and the Bank of Canada has room to manoeuvre on controlling inflation.

"The bank began cutting interest rates sooner — and has cut deeper — than most other central banks. With the usual lag, these moves will have a powerful impact on economic activity and inflation."

Carney's outlook was downright rosy by recent

"Canada faces those challenges (of the financial crisis) from a position of strength."

Mark Carney

standards. He expects the economy to begin recovering later this year. While he conceded Canada's GDP will drop a projected 1.2 per cent in 2009, he expects a 3.8 per cent rebound in 2010.

In the meantime, Carney said the central bank would use its powers to keep inflation at two per cent per year.

"While the current financial crisis presents challenges for policy-makers and citizens alike, Canada faces those challenges from a position of strength," said Carney.

Ottawa gives credit boost

BUDGET Business groups applauded measures in the proposed federal budget to increase access to credit and cut taxes.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty pledged to make up to \$200 billion in liquidity and financing available to Canadian businesses through a variety of government measures.

Under the plan, Ottawa would provide businesses with access to additional financing of \$13 billion through financial Crown corporations.

Agencies such as the Export Development Corp. and the Business Develop-

ment Bank of Canada would have greater lending powers.

A portion of these funds, about \$5 billion, will be provided through the new business credit availability program.

The government also plans to increase the maximum eligible loan amount a small business can access under the Canada small business financing program for loans made after March 31, 2009. The current limit will be raised to \$350,000 from \$250,000 and to \$500,000 for loans made for acquiring property.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nortel workers ask for severance

PAY A group of about 160 workers recently laid off by ailing telecom equipment maker Nortel Networks Corp. has asked the company's chief executive and board of directors to restore the severance payouts it has suspended as it restructures under court protection.

REUTERS

Business in brief

EARNINGS Helped by strong sales in Quebec and improved performance in Ontario outlets, grocer Metro Inc.

reported a higher-than-expected quarterly profit of \$81.1 million, up from \$73.8 million a year earlier.

EARNINGS Hershey Co. posted higher-than-expected quarterly profits of \$82.2 million, up from \$54.3 million a year earlier,

as it lifted sales through increased marketing. Sales rose 2.6 per cent to \$1.38 billion.

REUTERS

An important change in how organ and tissue donation decisions are registered in Ontario.

Have you registered a decision of "No" or "Undecided" regarding organ and tissue donation?

Then, you should know that, Ontario has changed the way donation decisions are recorded. Now, only a "Yes" to organ and tissue donation will be collected and stored in the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) database. At the appropriate time, this information will be accessed by the Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN), Ontario's provincial organ donation agency.

If you have previously registered "NO" or "UNDECIDED", this decision will no longer be used or disclosed to TGLN, as of July 1, 2009.

Therefore, it is important that you tell your family or loved ones of your decision, to ensure that your wishes are properly conveyed to your health care team at the relevant time.

Make your donation decision known to your family.

To find out more, visit www.ontario.ca/organdonation or call ServiceOntario, INFOLine at 1-866-532-3161.

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Ottawa Works

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

More than an intern

TIM WIECLAWSKI
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Even away from the lights and the stage, Jennifer Covert has parlayed her love for theatre and music into a satisfying career at the National Arts Centre.

Last November, after nearly a decade in various marketing roles at the NAC, Covert moved into the newly created position of e-marketing officer.

Though the NAC continues to do print, radio and television advertising, recently, there has been a

growing emphasis on the Internet. And it's her job to co-ordinate the many advertising campaigns run by the traditional marketing, publicity department with the new media.

Since the online store is open 24 hours a day, Covert said she is spending more time on either one of her two desktop computers or sending e-mails on her iPhone.

"When I started back in '99, there were people that didn't have email. Everything was sent through faxes. I was retyping bios and people had to mail or

"Every day I feel incredibly lucky to be working here."

Jennifer Covert

courier their head shots," she said. "Now we're at a pace where we expect everything to be done in a day. It's a real change."

He first job at the NAC was back in March of 1999, when she was brought on with a one-year internship in the marketing department, fresh from a masters degree in theatre history

from UBC. She started collecting material for the program books; that job morphed into a role working with the music department.

The internship was followed by a six-month contract and a full-time offer when that was done.

Marketing the arts is a fairly specialized field and there are not many people with marketing degrees that also have deep backgrounds in the arts, she said.

Recently, the NAC was named one of top 100 employers in Canada, which



Jennifer Covert, e-marketing officer with the National Arts Centre, parlayed a one-year internship into a career.

Covert credits to having a motivated and passionate staff who bring a very positive atmosphere to the company.

"We have great benefits and that is really good, but what we are doing here at the NAC is supporting and

creating great art and that is so inspirational to be a part of everyday," she said. "I always loved theatre and music. I don't know that I ever imagined that I would end up where I am now. Every day I feel incredibly lucky to be working here."

City staff recruiting students

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

Linda Laviolette considers it a win-win situation for everyone involved.

When the City of Ottawa hires students for the summer, everyone benefits, said Laviolette, the city's manager of staffing and client relations.

Students get a chance to make money, gain experience in a field they're interested in, work with the city's experts and get an appreciation for what makes a city tick. The city gets fresh blood — and young workers that might eventually replace its retiring municipal workers.

Every year, the city hires more than 2,100 students to fill 103 job descriptions

in more than a dozen areas, including administrative and support services; building, roads, forestry and parks maintenance; bylaw services; environmental science; finance and accounting; human resources; information technology and geomatics; laboratory technologist/chemistry; paramedics, parks and recreation services; public health services; recreation, heritage, community and social services; and traffic and parking operations.

"When you look at the city, we have many lines of business, not just one," said Laviolette. "It's a good opportunity for a student to decide if they want to pursue a career in municipal government."

"Students bring a good

dynamic to the workplace. You get fresh blood, so I think it's a win-win. We have to start thinking about replacing older folks."

While some jobs are suitable for high school students — students must be 16 years or older to be eligible for jobs, with the exception of library positions — more specialized positions such as engineering demand students who are in their second or third year of university.

"We've got opportunities for students at all levels," Laviolette said.

While summer is short, sometimes the experience is a lasting one.

Sometimes, a student gets a job they wouldn't have otherwise thought to apply for, said Laviolette.



Linda Laviolette, manager of staffing and client relations for the City of Ottawa.

The application process is online at Ottawa.ca. Students are encouraged to apply for more than one position by the close of the process on Feb. 20. Hiring managers will contact candidates for interviews in early spring.

Students who need help with their resumés can contact Youth Zone Jeunesse at 613-580-9663.



Parliament Hill is among the stops on Craig MacDonald's tour.

Local history inspires guide

KIM MANNIX VERMETTE
for Metro Canada

It took strolling through some of Europe's most famous cities for Craig MacDonald to gain a new appreciation for Ottawa.

And so, when he returned from his family vacation, feet a little tired from all the walking — but inspired by the sights he'd seen and the history he'd uncovered — MacDonald decided to show his own city the same courtesy.

In the summer of 2006, after a lot of research, Ottawa Walking Tours was born.

"You really get to know a place well when you experience it on foot," MacDonald explains. "I think this is amongst the best cities in the world, and it's my pleasure to be able to show it off to people."

MacDonald's is one of several walking tour businesses in the nation's capital, but not all of them can boast the willingness and enthusiasm for conducting tours year-round, even on the coldest of winter days.

He's willing to guide groups, small or big — though he prefers to cap the number at 25 — any time of year, but requests

customers confirm they're willing to battle the chill a day in advance.

MacDonald likes to hit most of downtown's historic and cultural hotspots on his two-hour tour, including Parliament Hill and the Chateau Laurier. But the best part of the tour, he says, is not in seeing the buildings, but in listening to the stories of the citizens who helped shape the city's history.

"I like researching and relaying those gossipy tidbits about historical people," MacDonald says. "History is like a soap opera and those stories help bring it back to life."

Whether it's history, architecture, or explaining the social makeup of our country, MacDonald says as a guide you have to be ready and willing to field almost any question.

But it's talking with the people he meets that he considers the most rewarding part of his job.

"I love selling the city, and it's an easy sell because people enjoy it, but it's so interesting learning what they find unique, or bizarre, or love about our city."

For more about walking tours in Ottawa, visit ottawawalkingtours.com or ottawatourism.ca.

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ottawa works **11**

Part-time work on the rise

BRIAN TOWIE
brian.towie@metronews.ca

Current economic conditions have slowed job growth, but part-time work has risen, the latest Statistics Canada labour force survey says.

A report released by Statistics Canada on Jan. 9 says a two-month drop in full-time work from November to December last year (approximately 34,000 jobs lost) led to a 0.3 per cent rise in the national unemployment rate and the slowing of employment growth. From December 2007-08, employment grew by 0.6 per cent — significantly slower than the growth rate over the same period the year before at 2.2 per cent.

"There was reasonable employment growth in the first three quarters of 2008," says Danielle Zietsma, senior analyst of the labour force survey at Statistics Canada. "It was really the last quarter where we saw employment growth start to lessen."

But Canadian industries do continue to grow, though not exponentially.



There has been an increase in jobs in the health-care industry.

The study found that, over the year, professional, scientific and technical industries have gone up 4.7 per cent, as did jobs in construction and health care and social assistance (one of Canada's biggest industries) at 3.7 per cent. Jobs in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing also increased over the year, which Zietsma says is no surprise.

"There's been a flurry of activity in the stock market," Zietsma said. "With all the volatility, you can see increasingly the demand for financial advisers and things like that. People are worried about what's going on with their investments."

Manufacturing employment continued to decline

with 32,000 jobs lost, though not as dramatic as in 2007, when 130,000 jobs were lost. Alberta and Quebec's increases tempered the damage from Ontario's manufacturing losses this year.

But Zietsma says it's the increase in part-time work that explains a great deal of the national job growth. "Pretty much all of it, in fact," Zietsma said. "Of the 98,000 growth in employment in 2008, 91,000 of that were part-time jobs."

And it's an older workforce taking those part-time jobs. Workers 55 and older saw their employment increase 4.2 per cent, as opposed to those aged 15 to 24, whose unemployment rate rose by 0.6 per cent.

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Sports

JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA



Heat forces Djokovic out

The Melbourne heat forced Novak Djokovic, left, to throw in the towel during his Australian Open quarter-final match against Andy Roddick yesterday. The third-ranked Serb looked increasingly woozy and had to give up while trailing 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-2, 2-1, allowing Roddick to claim a spot in the semifinals against Roger Federer.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sens back to losing ways

NHL RESULT

Devils 4 Senators 1

MIKE BEASLEY
for Metro Ottawa

THE SKINNY: The New Jersey Devils defeated the Ottawa Senators for the third consecutive time this season, cruising to a 4-1 victory at Scotiabank Place in both team's first game back after the All Star break.

DEMONS ON THE ROAD: With last night's victory, the Devils have won five consecutive games on the road.

TWO FOR LANGENBRUNNER: New Jersey captain Jamie Langenbrunner picked up his ninth and 10th goals of the season.



Nick Foligno grimaces as the puck flies past him toward Devils' goalie Scott Clemmensen during the second period last night.

It was the 17th two goal game of his NHL career.

Brendan Shanahan used his patented wrist shot to score New Jersey's fourth goal of the game. It was his second

SHANNY'S SNAP SHOT:

tally in three games since the Devils signed the veteran forward a couple of weeks ago.

THE BACKUP: With goaltender Martin Brodeur not expected back in the New Jersey lineup until early March, Scott Clemmensen has filled in admirably between the pipes for the Devils with a 20-9-1 record in 31 starts this year.

RETURN OF ANTON: Defenceman Anton Volchenkov made a successful return to the Ottawa lineup last night after missing 11 of the Senators last 12 games with injuries to both shoulders.

MULRONEY WAS PM: The last time Brodeur was not in goal for the Devils in a game at Ottawa was Dec. 3, 1992.

THE NEXT GAME: Ottawa makes a rare visit to the state of Missouri tomorrow night for a game against the St. Louis Blues.

Like a CFL team, MLS franchise needs stadium

Ottawa's biggest threat to land an MLS franchise may come from its own backyard, officials with the soccer league said yesterday.

MLS commissioner Don Garber and president Mark Abbott were in Ottawa and gave a glowing review to the city's bid for one of two spots available for the league's 2011 expansion plans. However, it's the lack of approval for a soccer-specific stadium to be built in Ottawa that may stand in the way.

"That's really the biggest hurdle that needs to be overcome for us to be able to approve an expansion team here," Garber said.

Senators owner Eugene Melnyk is in talks with government officials to secure both the land and partial funding required to build a proposed \$110-million stadium near the NHL team's Scotiabank Place home in the city's west end.

At the same time, a group led by Jeff Hunt, owner of the OHL's Ottawa 67's, has been granted a conditional CFL franchise and is also looking for the city's approval to redevelop Lansdowne Park in its downtown area.

It's been made clear to all parties involved that the city will give the go-ahead to either soccer, football or neither.

"The drawback is we don't yet have a definitive stadium resolution and that's the biggest drawback," Garber said after spending two days in meetings with Melnyk's group and officials from all three levels of government.

Ottawa is the last of five cities vying for an expansion franchise to be visited by MLS representatives. Vancouver, Miami, St. Louis and Portland, Oregon, all have done so already and Garber expects to make an announcement by April. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Super Bowl starting to look like a Steeler cakewalk

NFL

Super Bowl XLIII

I am a football addict and have not missed a Super Bowl game. Never. I have, I confess, witnessed every single second of all 42 Super Bowls — whether as a tot in my parents' family room, at friends' parties, in the stands of the stadiums where some of the games were played, working in the press box at several, in a rowdy establishment slouching over a table with beer, or alone with popcorn in the privacy of my den.

And, naturally, I'll watch

the 43rd Super Bowl somewhere this Sunday, when the Pittsburgh Steelers and Arizona Cardinals clash helmets.

I'm not especially jazzed up about this one, however, and I know I'm not alone.

YorkReport

Marty York

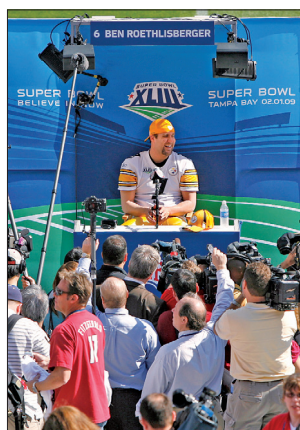
marty.york@metronews.ca

Last year in Arizona, when the heavily favoured New England Patriots were supposed to shred the New

York Giants in the 42nd Super Bowl, scalpers exploited overwhelming fan interest and sold tickets for beyond \$10,000 apiece. This week, I'm told, you can buy the finest Super Bowl seat in the house in Tampa Bay for less than \$3,000.

The recession is partly responsible, unquestionably, but there's general apathy, too, as many football fanatics fear a major mismatch.

Oh, I know that's what folks said last year, before the Pats and the Giants met. New England, though, created a buzz because of the undefeated/historical season it aimed to record. And then the Giants went and upset them. And, sure, the Cards could defy logic



Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger answers questions during Super Bowl media day in Tampa yesterday.

as seven-point underdogs and could pull off another miracle Sunday.

They could, but they won't. Consider:

- **Team histories:** Pittsburgh has a rich, winning tradition and can garner a record sixth Super Bowl victory Sunday. "I knew when I got drafted I'd be in the playoff hunt every year," Pittsburgh defensive end Brett Keisel said. "We ooze success." Arizona, meanwhile, has never been in a Super Bowl and has qualified for the playoffs only three times since 1976.

- **Defences:** No Super Bowl team had permitted more than 360 points in a season until these Cards, who coughed up 426. Pittsburgh gave up 223 points and led the NFL in fewest

yards allowed.

- **Regular-season scores:** The most points Pittsburgh surrendered in a game this season were 21 — in a 26-21 triumph. Arizona was beaten twice by 21 points, once by 28 and once by 40. No previous Super Bowl team lost a game by 21 or more points in the regular schedule.

You get the picture. This could be one of those not-so-classic Super Bowl routs.

Like: Pittsburgh 28, Arizona 9.

Yep, that bad. Regardless, I'll watch every second. Don't plan to snap my streak just yet.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

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OTTAWA'S NEWS LEADER

Metro Drive

Taking Dakar on diesel

Volkswagen has become the first automobile manufacturer to win the Dakar Rally with a diesel-powered vehicle, with its Race Touareg TDIs taking first and second place, Canadian Driver reports. The prestigious endurance race took place in Argentina and Chile.

METRO MEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Think beyond family car

Canadian, American inspirations behind Toyota Venza

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada



Toyota calls the 2009 Venza the most North American car it has ever built.

And in the next breath officials also call it one of the most important cars in the company's history.

Well, when you already have Corolla, Camry and Matrix, then a lot has to be riding on this next vehicle.

At the launch of the 2009 Venza in the hills of Pennsylvania, Toyota opened the presentation by declaring the Venza as a whole new kind of family car that isn't really a family car. It's hard to put a label on Venza. It blurs the line between station wagon, crossover and luxury car. About the closest thing to it in concept is the Mercedes-Benz R-Class.



Toyota says the 2009 Venza will be available with a four-cylinder or V6 engine and front- or all-wheel-drive starting at "under \$30,000."

With a price said to start at under \$30,000, I guess you could think of it as R-Class light.

This is the first Toyota vehicle specifically aimed at North Americans, designed in California and built in Kentucky. Canadians were the inspiration for the side rocker panels that are covered by the door panel to keep out slush and snow.

Because the rockers are at nearly the level of the floor, there is no step over to get in. So when you get in and out in the winter, and your pant legs brush the sill, they won't get wet or muddy.

With a length of 4.8 m, the wheelbase is a full 2,775 mm larger, which makes for sizeable passenger volume. To lower the roof as much as possible while re-

taining enough headroom for stadium-style second row seating, Toyota stylists came up with the clever idea of minimizing gaps.

The bonus is Venza looks very slick. By adding in 19- and 20-inch alloy wheels on the four-cylinder and V6 models respectively, the Venza comes across as a concept car that made it to the street.

The interior is outstanding

in its little details. There is a power point on the transmission wall with a cubbie just below for the front passenger. The 60/40 rear seat has a one-touch fold-down lever. That is in addition to remote back seat releases grafted into each rear cargo wall. The back seats recline for extra comfort.

Another thing I found was a character line across the dash running into each



These are the centre stack controls for the 2009 Venza. Note the cupholder that slides back and forward.

front door where it then widens and creates a recess that is also an armrest.

Fuel numbers for the four-cylinder FWD are 10.0/6.8/8.5L/100 km city/highway/combined respectively. For the AWD, they are: 10.2/7.1/8.8L/100 km. For the V6 FWD/AWD they are 11.0/7.6/9.5L/100 km and 11.5/7.9/9.9L/100 km city/highway/combined.

It looks like in trying to create the next generation North American car, Toyota has sensed an emerging trend and is ready to move on it.

AutoPilot

Michael
Goetz

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AskMen.com's list of the top 10 U.S. presidential retreats is, unsurprisingly, led by Camp David in Maryland and the Kennedy Compound in Massachusetts; other spots include the Little White House in Key West, Fla.; Lyndon Johnson's Texas ranch; and the Reagan family's Rancho del Cielo near Santa Barbara, Calif. **REUTERS**

Travel

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Family ski deal

Fairmont Hot Springs Resort in Fairmont, B.C. has launched a Family Learn to Ski Package that combines ski lessons, a snowshoe chocolate fondue, soaking in its natural mineral hot springs and more. The package is suited to a family of four (two adults and two youth or children) that's new to skiing or boarding and wants to enjoy a worry-free learning experience. Visit fairmonthotsprings.com.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Underwater in Mauritius

Explore and enjoy the blue waters around this island nation

EMMA E. FORREST
Metro World News



It's not every day that you find yourself piloting a scooter through the corals of the southwestern Indian Ocean. However, this is exactly how I made my first exploration of the azure blue waters of Mauritius — on what claims to be the world's only underwater "sub-scooter" safari.

While scooter and rider are submerged three metres under the surface, a transparent dome over your head is pumped with air for so you can breathe normally and chat with your co-driver as you navigate through shoals of brightly-coloured fish. (blue-safari.com, based in the resort of Grand Baie, \$183 per couple).

Of course, this is just one way of enjoying the bathwater-warm ocean around this exquisite volcanic island. Mauritius is famous for long stretches of soft white sandy beaches, as



An underwater "sub-scooter" safari is one way to explore the azure blue, bathwater-warm waters around the exquisite volcanic island of Mauritius.

well as the ring of coral reef around it that creates protected lagoons full of exotic fish.

Should you get bored of sunbathing, you can wade into the water with a snorkel. You can usually see plenty of underwater activity within a few metres of the shore, and most hotels offer snorkelling trips where they'll take you to the most fish-crowded areas of the reef. If you're keen to see more, diving is spectacular here.

If you prefer to be on top of the water, there's surfing, kayaking, pedalo, sailing and even kite surfing, popular with a hip crowd on the western coast.

Another must is deep-sea fishing. Mauritius is one of the best places in the world to fish for marlin, a large and imposing dark

On the web

• mauritius.net

blue fish with a pointed nose. Take a trip with JP Henry Charters, a family-run operation based at the Le Morne Angler's Club on the western coast, and they'll send you out with local skippers who will take you to the best fishing spots, sailing past groups of curious dolphins.

They'll ensure that even amateurs hook a share of silver bonito and perhaps a bright yellow dorado, before you are strapped into the chair to put up a fight with a big one. Henry encourages a release policy. (blackriver-mauritius.com, from \$565 for six people).

With most watersports available at your hotel, its



no wonder many visitors to Mauritius never leave the grounds. In fact, with luxurious beachfront hotels, gourmet restaurants, spas and limitless activities, along with fabulous weather and hospitality, it's no wonder people come here for their honeymoons and never see the rest of the country.

If you go ...

Where to stay

• Tamassa, the four star hotel with friendly staff and uplifting, chic rooms, and all the facilities you might need — pretty beach, spa, watersports, swimming pools, several restaurants, nightclub, bar with live shows (naiade.com).

How to get there

• Air Mauritius planes with their uplifting orange and lime green colour scheme, fly

from most destinations into Mauritius main airport at Plaisance (airmauritius.com).

Getting around

• hire a car or have a friendly experienced guide from Mauritours show you around (mauritours.net).

Currency

• \$1 = 26 Mauritius Rupees

Language

• English and French

METRO WORLD NEWS

However, that would be a shame, there is so much more to Mauritius than sea, beach and waving palm trees.

This tiny 2,040-square-kilometre island country wasn't "found" until the 16th century, when it saw a succession of Dutch, then French and British coloniz-

ers, bringing with them first slaves from Africa, then Indian and Chinese labourers.

The country became independent in 1968 and remains a stable, prosperous and highly literate nation, with a lively and harmonious mix of cultures and religions.

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Play a few rounds in Florida

Scratch golfers and hackers alike will ace their next Florida golf outing with help from golf.visitflorida.com, a new site that pulls together information from public, private, semi-private and resort courses across the state. VISITFLORIDA.COM

travel 15

Sampling a surprising snack

A traveller who makes a point of eating local delicacies may have finally met her match

Balut is a nutrient-rich snack, an exotic delicacy and a challenge that could unsettle even the most daring of Fear Factor contestants.

It's a dish widely enjoyed in the Philippines and other parts of South East Asia and at first glance, it seems a lot like a hard-boiled egg. The only difference is that when you inspect the contents, you find the yolk is actually an 18-day-old fertilized duck embryo.

Balut has been described as a snack that's as common in Filipino culture as hot dogs are in the U.S. It's most commonly eaten in the early evening with lots of salt and a nice cold beer.

On the streets of Manila, you'll find vendors on every corner selling warm eggs to hungry passersby. Just crack the egg open, peel the shell and add a pinch of sodium. Some eat the snack with a fork, though the usual way to scarf it down is with your bare hands.

Balut is valued as a good calcium hit, a cheap source of protein and a potent aphrodisiac. Countless people also love the taste,



Andy Concio, owner of a balut factory just outside of Manila, poses with bottles of preserved balut.

Word Travels

• Catch the second season of Word Travels, a documentary series that follows the real-life adventures of travel writers Julia Dimon and Robin Esrock. It airs Sundays at 8:30 p.m. on OLN, with a repeat at 11:30 p.m.

but to the uninitiated, the experience can seem not so much gourmet as just plain gross.

The U.S.-based satirical site Cracked.com voted balut one of the "most terrifying foods in the world," and relates that balut is enjoyed in Cambodia, the Philippines and the fifth and seventh levels of hell.

When travelling, I like to keep an open mind and eat as the locals do, even if that means taking culinary challenges to the extreme.

So I head to Pateros — a district 20 minutes outside of central Manila that's known as the balut capital of the Philippines — to try the thing for myself.

I visit a locally-owned balut factory where they process about 80,000 eggs a week. Half are sold as balut and the other half as salted eggs.

The owner, Andy Concio, takes me through the factory and explains that thousands of eggs are incubated in wooden chambers and heated at just the right temperature. The process of fertilization is regularly monitored using a device that looks like a pinhole camera.

He puts an egg under the light of a naked bulb and inspects it carefully. "The dark shape sloshing around in the egg means

TheTravelJunkie

Julia Dimon

metronews.ca/traveljunkie

the embryo is forming," he says. "If the light doesn't show the veiny liquid, the egg is infertile and cannot be used for balut."

Concio claims to be the first to preserve the product and export it as a non-perishable food item. His main customers are Filipino migrant workers living and working in Dubai, but his base is growing.

He plans to ship the product to the U.S., making it available to millions of South Asian ex-pats who miss their salty snack.

So what does balut taste like? I pick at an eggshell, then take a shot of the fluid inside. The liquid is warm and tastes like green tea. But the rest of the contents aren't so soothing. They remind me of dry, mealy turkey, the sort that's been hanging around much too long after Thanksgiving dinner.

I'm happy I tried balut — and still plan to keep sampling local dishes wherever I go — but I still feel a bit tongue-traumatized. And I may never be able to look at an egg the same way again.

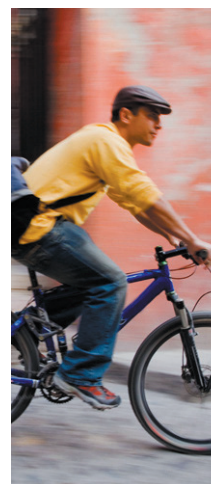
Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing Sundays at 8:30 p.m. on OLN; juliadimon.com.

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Paul McCartney is going to headline a concert to raise money for yogic flying. Film director David Lynch is organizing the benefit in New York on April 4 — which will also star Moby, Sheryl Crow, and Eddie Vedder — and is determined to raise money to teach the technique to school children. FEMALETFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA



New Heights

Jennifer Lopez is reported to be starring in a Broadway musical. The singer-and-actress is considering a role in the New York theatre production of *In the Heights*. FEMALETFIRST.CO.UK

Project Runway casualty

RAF BRUSLOW
for Metro Canada



Camille Prins went on Project Runway Canada to follow her design dreams, but a frumpy camouflage dress got her sent home in this season's first episode.

On the season premiere last night, designers were tasked with creating a winning dress — using camouflage material — to be displayed in the Canadian War Museum.

Prins, a 28-year-old Toronto native, tried to capture the spirit of a jun-

gle vixen with her dress but the judges felt it just made the model look dirty and unkempt. One judge said it was actually painful to look at, sealing Prins' fate.

On the show, Prins said her most powerful asset was her positivity and she remains true to form despite being ousted first.

"The show was actually a really fun, positive experience. I feel like it has already opened a lot of doors. If I could I would do it again," Prins said.

Prins had only kind words for the other design-

ers and says most of them bonded because of similar goals and personalities.

Previously, two contestants voluntarily withdrew from the competition in dramatic exits due to health issues. Jaclyn Murray, 26, from Winnipeg, Man., suffered an anxiety attack during the first challenge and had to be hospitalized, choosing to withdraw shortly thereafter.

Danio Frangella, 33, from LaSalle, Ont., left the show after developing painful skin ulcers, a side-effect from a bout with cancer.

For Prins, the experience of being on the show was a lot tamer and a lot less intimidating than she had expected.

"I expected it to be a hundred times crazier. Even when I was sleeping I was expecting a camera crew to rush in. But you're too busy to even notice that the cameras are there," she said.

Prins says she has wanted to be involved with the show since the first season, so being on the show was a dream come true.

Now that she's off the show Prins will go back to

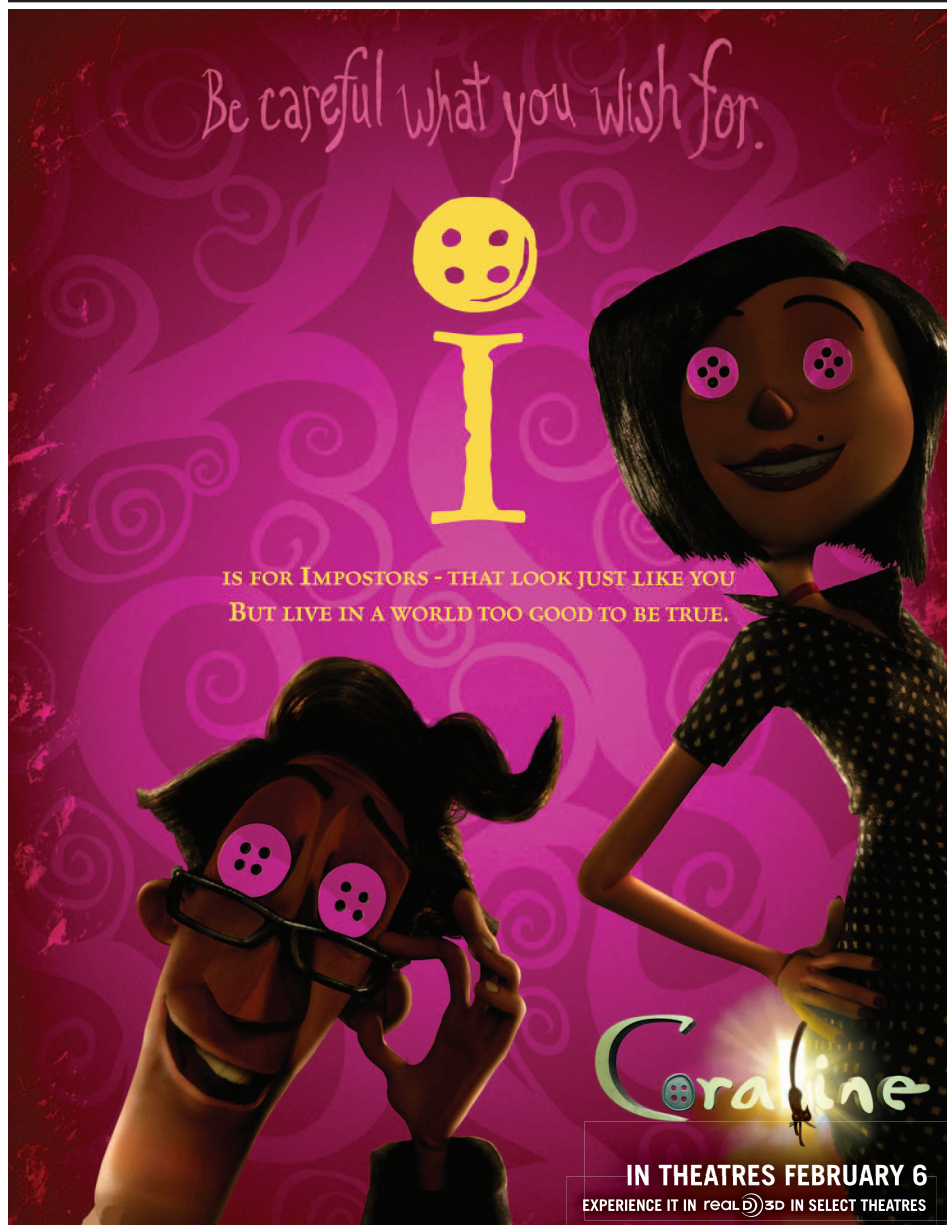


Camille Prins, right, was sent home on Project Runway Canada last night. The judges didn't like her camouflage dress, left.

running her Dutch Blonde women's clothing line (dutchblonde.ca) and she

hopes to branch out into menswear and children's apparel soon.

GLOBAL TELEVISION PHOTO



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Milk among GLAAD nominees

AWARDS Best picture Oscar nominee Milk picked up another award nod yesterday as the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation announced nominations for its 20th annual GLAAD Media Awards.

Milk, from Focus Features, the specialty division of Universal Pictures, was included in GLAAD's outstanding film in wide release category. It will compete with Miramax's *Bridgeshead Revisited*, Co-

The winners are:

- The awards will be presented at a series of dinners — March 28 in New York, April 18 in Los Angeles and May 9 in San Francisco.

lumbia's Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist, Warner Bros.' *RocknRolla* and the Weinstein Co.'s *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*.

The nominees for outstanding television drama

series are ABC's *Brothers & Sisters*, Showtime's *The L Word*, The N's *South of Nowhere*, BBC America's *Torchwood* and HBO's *True Blood*. The comedy series nominees are ABC's *Desperate Housewives*, ABC Family's *Greek*, the CW's *Reaper*, BBC America's *Skins* and ABC's *Ugly Betty*.

The awards honour media representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

REUTERS

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This Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program is funded by the Government of Ontario.

Dancing shoes

Donny Osmond has let slip that he is about to step into his sister Marie's shoes — her dancing shoes. Osmond made the remark that he would appear on *Dancing with the Stars* during a recent taping of *The Bonnie Hunt Show*. **PEOPLE.COM**

entertainment **17**

The next generation of TV viewers: Old people

Intelle**Vision**



TIME TO PANIC: We've passed the midpoint of the traditional TV season, and while the networks can conceal their growing anxiety behind the smoke-screen of economic bad news, the fact is that things haven't gone well, and now is the last moment for fixing it.

As long as the 18-49 demographic is still considered a mix of the football team, the cheerleading squad and the rich kid who lets you drive his BMW, there's no consolation to be had from news that three of the four U.S. networks have lost a considerable chunk of these viewers — a 12-per-cent drop from last year's numbers for ABC and NBC, and 14 per cent loss for Fox, according to a New York Times story.

Only CBS is weathering to demographic exodus, gaining in overall audience and only losing three per cent of the 18-49ers, but it has to be remembered that CBS — home of procedurals like *Cold Case*, *Without a Trace*, *NCIS* and the *CSI* franchise, reality stalwarts *Survivor*, *Big Brother* and *The Amazing Race* and top sitcom *Two And A Half Men* — is generally considered the house network for the Rogaine generation.

No one who knows the difference between *The Shins* and *The Mars Volta* watches CBS to begin with, and if youngsters keep abandoning the networks, we may finally see the emergence of a new consensus among marketing types that young people — probably the most likely to see their disposable income evaporate if the economic downturn continues — aren't the holy grail of audiences anymore.

It may already be happening. The Times piece notes that network strate-

gies aren't looking that audacious — production teams with a proven track record are behind many of the new shows, many of which are spin-offs or forays into safe genres like procedurals. CBS is preparing a spin-off of NCIS, NBC has put Greg Daniels and Michael Schur of *The Office* in charge of Amy Poehler's new sitcom, and is filling ER's soon-to-be-vacant slot with *Southland*, a cop show set in L.A., at least until Jay Leno can take over the space next season.

A few of you might already have noticed that ads for adult incontinence pads and cures for male urinary irregularities have migrated from cable and late night to prime time. Look for more of the same, until the day when some network realizes that enough of their viewers have memory issues for them to just run the same episode of CSI every night.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

ABC announces strong lineup of comedies

TV ABC has announced the creation of a Thursday night comedy block and has scheduled airtimes for two of its midseason comedies.

Starting March 26, the network will air single-mom comedy *In the Moth-*

erhood on Thursdays at 8 p.m. EST and move the Christina Applegate-starring sitcom *Samantha Who?* from Mondays to Thursdays at 8:30 p.m.

The usual occupant of that hour, Ugly Betty, will take a rare hiatus, then

will return to the slot later in the season. ABC also has scheduled the office sitcom *Better Off Ted*, which will air Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. starting March 18, paired in the hour with *Scrubs*.

REUTERS

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A photograph of a modern kitchen featuring a large, speckled granite countertop, a stainless steel sink, and a built-in oven. The cabinetry is dark wood or laminate.

A photograph showing open kitchen cabinets with organized storage. The upper cabinets have white interior shelves with various containers, and the lower cabinets have pull-out shelves holding cleaning supplies.

A photograph of a kitchen island with wooden cabinets, a dark countertop, and a stainless steel sink. A built-in oven is visible in the background.

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In brief

REMAKE The saga of Bonnie and Clyde is headed for another film telling, with Hilary Duff and Kevin Zegers in negotiations to play the infamous 1930s bank robbers.

REDUX ABC is flashing the V sign. The network has ordered a pilot for a reimagining of the 1980s miniseries about an alien invasion. The new V will centre on a female Homeland Security agent.

REUTERS

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OT	Vu SC C			7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00							
1/28/09	primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Expedition: Guyana (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Little Dorrit		Alone in Four Walls (N)		Agenda-Paikin					
		211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada		Entertainment		House "97 Seconds"		Lie to Me (HDTV) (N)		(10:02) Life on Mars		News (N)			
		-	-	5	SRC	Virginie (SC)		L'Épicerie		Le Match des étoiles (SC)		Les Invincibles (SC)		Le Téléjournal et Les Nou		La Zone			
		209	342	6	CHRO	Instant Star		TMZ (N)		Lost "The Lie"		Lost "Jughead" (N)		Law & Order (HDTV) (N)		News (N)			
		196	311	7	CTV	Hollywood		etalk		American Idol (HDTV) (N)		Criminal Minds "Lo-Fi"		CSI: NY "Veritas" (HDTV)		News (N)			
		208	303	8	CBC	Coronation St.		Jeopardy! (N)		The Week the Women Went		CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National		The Hour			
		-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune		Jeopardy! (N)		Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order (HDTV) (N)		News (N)			
		117	713	10	TVA	Poule-oeufs or		Sketch Show		Destinées "Poker Face" (SC)		Dommages et intérêts		TVA 22 heures		(10:45) Denis Lévesque			
		-	-	11	QS	450 chemin		Rire et délire		Wipeout (SC)		Bob Gratton		Bob Gratton		Cent dix pour cent (SC)		Msr Showbiz	
		137	763	12	TFO	Panorama				Destination Nor'Ouest 2		Les Légendes de Rita ★★ (1999, Drame)		Bibiane Beglau.		Évolution			
-	362	13	CBS	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)				Evening News		Old Christine		Criminal Minds "Lo-Fi"		CSI: NY "Veritas" (HDTV)		Two/Half Men			
216	395	14	OMN2	Raymond		Raymond		News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men		King		Cold Case			
214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU				13: Fear Is Real		Hates Chris		Friends		I Love Money		News (N)			
115	343	16	CFMT	Two/Half Men		The Simpsons		News (N)		Vivere II		News (N)		The Simpsons		King of the Hill		Metropia	
218	345	18	E!	The Insider (N)		E! News		Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		Party Monsters: Cabo		Fashion Police: SAG Awards		News (N)					
-	361	20	ABC	News (N)		Entertainment		Lost "The Lie"		Lost "Jughead" (N)		(10:02) Life on Mars		News (N)					
512	396	24	CPAC	La Période de questions				Heure polit.		L'Heure politique				Revue		Période-quest.			
651	355	25	CTS	Happy Days		Laverne		Michael Coren Show		100 Huntley Street		Life Today		This Is Day		John Hagee			
-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)		Seinfeld		American Idol (HDTV) (N)		Lie to Me (HDTV) (N)		News (N)				News			
-	-	64	PBS	Business Rpt.		Drum TV		Make 'em Laugh: The Funny Business of America (N)				Pioneers of Television				Tavis Smiley			
205	312	104	CTV	Hollywood		etalk		American Idol (HDTV) (N)		Criminal Minds "Lo-Fi"		CSI: NY "Veritas" (HDTV)		News (N)					
502	390	26	NW	CBC News		Newman		The Hour		CBC News: The National		Jelly Fish Invasion (N)		National					
500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight				Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)							
406	417	27	net	World Sport		UFC Primetime		Ultimate Fighting Championship 74: Respect				Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central					
126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes				Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct		Le National		Le Téléjournal			
400	280	30	TSN	That's Hockey!		NHL Pregame		NHL Hockey Buffalo Sabres at Calgary Flames. (HDTV) (Live)				NHL Hockey							
410	403	52	SCR	University Basketball				Women's University Basketball Ottawa at Carleton. (Live)				Score Update		Hockey Talk					
411	457	56	OLN	Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter		Survivorman		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter		Survivorman			
417	406	59	SC	NASCAR Pre.		Pass Time (N)		Am. Thunder		Am. Thunder		Pinks (HDTV)		Pinks Outtakes		Wrecked		NASCAR Pre.	
554	544	48	TFL	Totally Spies		Total Drama		6TEEN		6TEEN		Misadventures		Futurama		The Critic		Robot Chicken	
557	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place		That's-Raven		Zack & Cody		Natural-Sadie		Han. Montana		Life Derek		Ned's School		Cory in House	
551	542	65	YTV	Adrenaline Proj		Prank Patrol		Malcolm-Mid.		Futurama		Adrenaline		Prank Patrol		Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.	
570	580	29	MM	mmmtop		MusicProfile		Where You At		Revival		Story Of Spice Girls.				All-Time Top 10		Revival	
615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter		Parking Wars		Parking Wars	
628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: NY "Live or Let Die"				CSI: NY "Super Men"		UFC Unleashed (HDTV)		UFC Primetime		UFC Primetime		Unleashed			
521	560	34	TLC	Mystery Diagnosis				Personal Justice (HDTV)		Solved "The Watch Man"		Extreme Forensics		Personal Just.					
145	761	35	TV5	Humanima		Mixeur		Comédie de l'innocence (2000)		Chambre 24		Peur		Voyageur		Journal TV5			
616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits				About a Girl		About a Girl		The Guard "Waheguru"		Big Love (HDTV)		House			
620	523	40	BVO	The Achievers		Landscape		Arts & Minds		Bravo/Videos		Wingfield		Wingfield		Death at-Opera		Broadway	
520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)				Dirty Jobs				Deadliest Catch				Mayday "Phantom Strike"		Daily Planet	
575	583	43	CMT	CMT's Greatest				Home Improve.		Home Improve.		Reba		Reba		Hope & Faith		Hope & Faith	
601	562	45	SLC	Til Debt-Part		Rich Poor		X-Weighted				Real Housewives of OC				Filthy Rich: Cattle Drive		ET Canada	
625	548	46	COM	Air Farce		Just for Laughs				Corner Gas		The Simpsons		South Park		Jon Dore Show		RENO 911!	
294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne		House-Payne		Signs *** (2002, Suspense) Mel Gibson.				Steve Harvey		Seinfeld		Family Guy			
600	564	49	H&G	House Hunters		Property Virgin		Mansions		Property Shop		Property Virgin		Unsellable		Hid Potential		Really Big Flip	
627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)				Lost "Tabula Rasa"				Star Trek: Voyager				Rabbit Fall		Rabbit Fall	
581	566	53	MTV	Mom & Dad		After		MTV News		Cribs		The Real World				The Real World (N)		MTV Live	
618	524	54	TROP	Reality		Ad Persuasion		Family Guy		Seinfeld		Seinfeld		Raymond		Family Guy		Married... With	
522	506	55	HIS	NCIS				Cities of the Underworld				Gladiator Graveyard				NCIS		Lost Inventions	
129	773	60	CD	Biographies Pierre Mailloux.				Enfants médiums				S O S (HDTV)				Crimes passionnels		Vidéo	
261	394	61	V	Murder, She Wrote				Summer Wine		Dinnerladies		Darling Buds of May				Life & Times		Poltergeist	
602	567	62	W	Will & Grace		Friends		Grocery Bag		Grocery Bag		How Clean		Too Posh		Maxed Out (N)		Maxed Out	
269	350	70	APTN	Canadian Geographic				Extreme Beats				APTN National News: Contact				Miywayawin		Guides	
621	527	71	TLK	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)				TMZ (N)		etalk		Blush: Make-Up Artist				The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ	
603	561	95	FN	Chef at Home		Chef at Home		Restaurant Makeover				Iron Chef America				Top Chef Super Bowl cook-off. (N)			

critics' corner

Too Posh to Wash

Jeans pockets should hold handkerchiefs, not substitute for them. Tell that to the 23-year-old subject of this new episode. Using her jeans as tissues is the least of her hygiene problems; she also still has the glue on her teeth from the braces she ripped off more than a year ago — which is also the last time she wore a clean bra. Kim Woodburn and Aggie MacKenzie swoop in with microbiologist Derren Ready to give this young woman a wake-up call. 9:30 PM on 62 W



COAST TO COAST

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Celebrity Buzz



Amy to visit prison in bid to keep hubby

MARRIAGE Amy Winehouse is set to visit her husband in prison in a bid to stop him from filing for divorce, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Rehab singer — who has been romantically linked with 21-year-old actor Josh Bowman and a fitness instructor named Andrew while holidaying in St. Lucia — has applied to see Blake Fielder-Civil and is set to return to the U.K. any day to save their marriage.

A friend of the 25-year-old star said that, "Since he began divorce proceedings Amy has decided she wants to try and work things out."

"She has applied to visit

him in jail in Britain and if he accepts she will fly back. We will see what his priority is. Amy or her money."

Blake — who is serving a 27-month sentence for perverting the course of justice and grievous bodily harm — is reportedly planning to ask for half of Winehouse's fortune in a divorce settlement.

Despite being photographed frolicking with Josh on her holiday and reports they frequently romped, Winehouse has insisted she "still loves" Blake.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Airbrushed teeth in Sienna photo

VANITY Airbrushing is nothing new in the fashion industry, but have you heard of someone's teeth needing to be airbrushed?

Femalefirst.co.uk is reporting that was the case for Sienna Miller.

The website says a new documentary reveals that when the actress was shot for the cover of American Vogue in 2007 the magazine's editor Anna Wintour voiced her concerns over Sienna's oral health as she had "too many fillings."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Affleck admits he wasn't always lucky in love

DATING Ben Affleck was "never very good" at dating, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 36-year-old actor — who had relationships with Gwyneth Paltrow and Jennifer Lopez before marrying Jennifer Garner — admits starring in new romantic comedy He's Just Not That Into You was a challenge because he hasn't always been lucky in love.

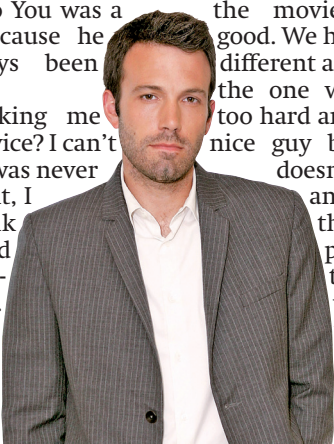
"You're asking me for dating advice? I can't give any — I was never very good at it, I don't think anyone should follow my advice," he said.

Ben added he enjoyed making the film — which

tells the stories of several young men and women in different stages of relationships — because it reminded him of his life before he was married.

"This film showed me that I'm happy I'm married. But I do like listening to boys when they are dating, and all the actors in the movie are very good. We have all these different archetypes — the one who's trying too hard and is a really nice guy but the girl doesn't like him anyway. Then there's the player who takes a girl under his wing."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



'Adopt me': Clooney

PEOPLE George Clooney has made an offer few can refuse: He has placed himself up for adoption, people.com reports.

"I always wanted to be adopted, but I couldn't find anyone," said the star, speaking at a Newseum event in Washington, D.C., with his father, former Ohio news anchor Nick Clooney, and veteran journalist Bill Small on either side of him.

"Will you adopt me?" George said to Small. "I'm very wealthy. I'll

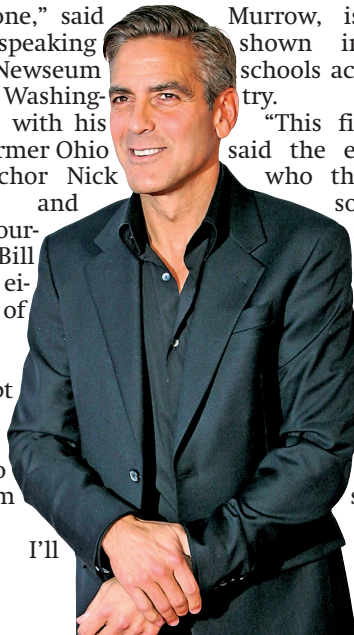
take care of you."

Talk of adoption started after Nick Clooney's observation that his son's 2005 film, Good Night, and Good Luck, about iconic CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow, is now being shown in journalism schools across the country.

"This film has legs," said the elder Clooney, who then asked his son for his opinion.

"I don't care for that," said the jocular George — prompting Nick to respond: "I never cared for this kid — his sister's great."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Rourke's Wrestler injuries

PEOPLE Mickey Rourke had to be helped up stairs by his girlfriend after suffering so many injuries from The Wrestler, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 56-year-old actor — who recently won a Golden Globe Award for his role as Randy (The Ram) Robinson in the movie — wasn't prepared for the effects the brutal fighting scenes would have on his body.

"I had to try harder to get up in the morning. And because of my extra bulk, a football knee from high school acted up again. Two hundred years later! And my woman

had to get behind me and push me up the stairs. I was pathetic looking," he said.

"So my knees wouldn't hold up, because of all the extra weight and the exercise. And all the injuries you get from being thrown down, you know?"

Rourke recently revealed he is planning to step into the wrestling ring for real, after WWE owner Vince McMahon got in touch.

"Now, Vince wants me to do WrestleMania in Houston. Chris Jericho, I'm coming after you're a—! You better get yourself in shape brother. I'm going to do it! You bet you're a—; I'm going to do it!"

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Angie and Brad to rent classy \$60M US estate

COUPLE What could make Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's upcoming rental of a \$60 million US estate in the Gold Coast area of New York's Long Island even more fabulous? How about throwing in the use of the property owner's \$90 million luxury yacht?

Star Magazine is reporting the Hollywood couple — and their six children — will be moving into the Sassafras estate in the exclusive waterfront town of Lloyd Neck, while Angelina begins area filming for the spy thriller Salt in March.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Lohan loses a lot of weight lately

PEOPLE Lindsay Lohan's shrinking frame has had folks worried lately, as the erratic actress has lost a noticeable amount of weight. But her publicist is working hard to explain all that. "Lindsay is aware that she's lost some weight due to stress," Lohan's rep tells Hollyscoop.

"But we recently did a photo shoot and she ate two full meals."

No word on what's causing all this stress, but her rocky relationship with Samantha Ronson can't be helping.

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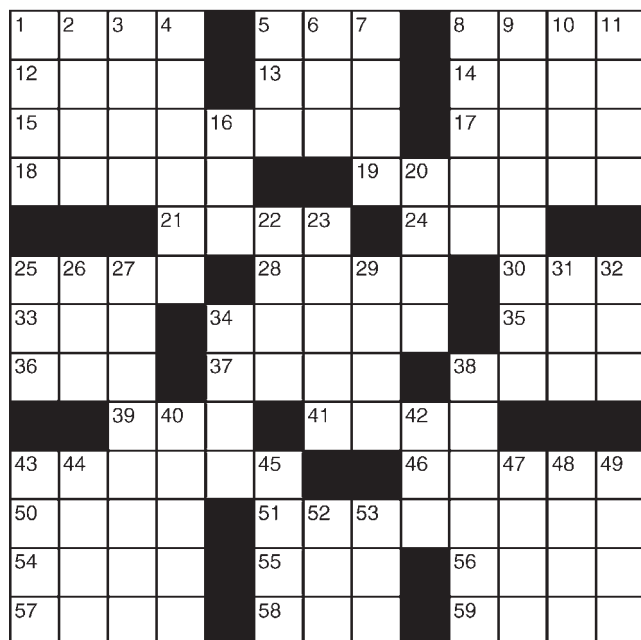
during the OC Transpo Strike.





For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: metronews.ca/food

Take Five



Crossword across

- 1 Light-years away
- 5 Weep loudly
- 8 Vicinity
- 12 Theatre box
- 13 Crony
- 14 Rent
- 15 Lamb and eggplant recipe
- 17 Libertine's feeling
- 18 — au poivre
- 19 Explosions
- 21 Pinocchio, notably
- 24 Braying beast
- 25 George Herman Ruth
- 28 Campus hangout
- 30 Recede
- 33 Mess up
- 34 Fastidious
- 35 Have a bug
- 36 Ostrich's kin
- 37 Right on the map?
- 38 Zealots' group
- 39 "Casablanca" pianist
- 41 Apiece
- 43 Rigatoni and rotini
- 46 5-Down features
- 50 Double Stuf cookie
- 51 Subject of Frederick I
- 54 Pottery oven
- 55 "— Town"
- 56 Notions holder
- 57 Relaxation
- 58 X rating?
- 59 Nitwit

Crossword down

- 1 Charitable gifts
- 2 Yard portion
- 3 Chills and fever
- 4 Auction, essentially
- 5 Masseuse's workplace, maybe
- 6 Furniture wood
- 7 Spill the beans
- 8 Holdup man?
- 9 Philosopher Jean-Jacques
- 10 Formerly, formerly
- 11 Picnic invaders
- 16 Schuss
- 20 Gentlewoman
- 22 Blue hue
- 23 Charlotte — (dessert)
- 25 Spelling contest
- 26 Branch
- 27 NATO headquarters site
- 29 "The Thin Man" dog
- 31 Puppeteer Baird
- 32 Sandwich shop order
- 34 Damage assessment org.
- 38 Pursued
- 40 Expiate (for)
- 42 Couric's network
- 43 Prod
- 44 Met melody
- 45 Location
- 47 One of the Jackson 5
- 48 Truckload
- 49 Fit of peevishness
- 52 Wish otherwise
- 53 Coffee dispenser

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

G	U	L	F	R	E	M	M	A	M	E
A	G	A	R	I	R	A	A	M	I	D
S	H	O	E	H	O	R	N	D	O	N
P	S	A	L	M	N	A	S	A		
E	A	S								
E	R	A								
P	I	P	E	D	O	W	N			
R	E	D	E							
O	V	E	R							
B	I	N	G							
E	L	S	E							

1	8	4	5	9	7	3	6	2
3	2	9	8	4	6	5	1	7
7	5	6	3	2	1	4	9	8
5	4	3	2	1	8	9	7	6
2	9	1	6	7	4	8	3	5
6	7	8	9	3	5	1	2	4
4	1	5	7	6	3	2	8	9
9	3	7	4	8	2	6	5	1
8	6	2	1	5	9	7	4	3

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

- Under 13 min Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min Smart
21-25 min Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Filet Mignon Salad

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 red peppers
- 10 oz (300 g) filet mignon
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) pepper
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 lb (500 g) green beans, trimmed
- 4 tbsp (60 mL) balsamic vinegar
- 2 tsp (10 mL) extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) finely chopped shallot
- 1/4 lb (125 g) mixed salad greens
- 6 tomatoes, cut into 1/4-in (0.5-cm) wedges

METHOD:

1. Preheat broiler. Place red peppers in broiler pan. Cook until skins are blistered and blackened, turning frequently. Place in plastic bag, seal tightly and let steam 10 minutes. Peel away blackened skins from peppers, seed and cut into chunks.
2. Meanwhile, lay filet flat on cutting board and slit lengthwise three-quarters of the way through. Open

up like a book and press flat. Sprinkle with 1/4 tsp (1 mL) pepper. Cut 1 garlic clove in half and rub cut sides all over beef. Barbecue or broil beef until done to taste, about 3 minutes per side for medium. Thinly slice beef.

3. Cook beans in boiling water until crisp-tender, about 5 minutes. Drain and rinse immediately with cold water.

4. Crush remaining garlic clove. Whisk vinegar, oil, garlic, shallot and remaining pepper in small bowl. Divide mixed salad greens among 4 plates and arrange meat, pepper, beans and tomatoes on top. Drizzle with dressing and serve.

SERVES 4



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20

Fate takes a hand and delayed money arrives. A man wants to run away due to lost trust. You'd be happier somewhere else.



TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21

Try not to be upset by guilty feelings. Your good deeds are repaid twice over. Ask questions in order to lower your stress level.



SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22

A timid person is playing a waiting game. Try to have reasonable expectations of distant friends. Behave reasonably to obtain more freedom.



GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21

Give yourself a fresh start. Hurt feelings will erupt temporarily. If someone sees you as a hero, try to live up to it.



SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21

An incredible interruption comes up after lunch. An old man is excited about a mystery romance. You'll find a tempting bargain.



CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22

A meeting has nothing to do with you. Somebody with a deceptive smile should be avoided. You can tell that something has failed.



CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20

Doors will open after an emotional predicament. Some people are in a foul mood. A notorious man requests your help, but you'll refuse.



LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23

It'll be great if you can take a different approach. Bravado is important when you're avoiding a call. Stay away from scandalous actions all day.



AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18

Hammer home your point with a very light touch. You'll enjoy someone's amusing discussion. A generous man will be your lucky charm.



VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22

A friend may be loyal but is also indiscreet. A habitual favour-beggar regrets a previous request. A second chance can come at night.



PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20

Coffee shop talk leads to deception in a company. A polite person is making amends. An unpleasant creature can be dealt with by a friend.



WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

1. Eisenhower's Dutch embankments (1)

2. Chimney dirt on a leg end (1)

3. Identical moniker (1)

4. Low-in-fat king's wife (1)

5. Picasso's countrymen disappear (2)

6. At-bat player's shaky nerves (2)

7. Vote-seeking game plan bubbly (2)

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

ANSWERS: 1. EISENHOWER'S DUTCH EMBANKMENTS (1) EISENHOWER'S DUTCH EMBANKMENTS (1) 2. CHIMNEY DIRT ON A LEG END (1) CHIMNEY DIRT ON A LEG END (1) 3. IDENTICAL MONIKER (1) IDENTICAL MONIKER (1) 4. LOW-IN-FAT KING'S WIFE (1) LOW-IN-FAT KING'S WIFE (1) 5. PICASSO'S COUNTRYMEN DISAPPEAR (2) PICASSO'S COUNTRYMEN DISAPPEAR (2) 6. AT-BAT PLAYER'S SHAKY NERVES (2) AT-BAT PLAYER'S SHAKY NERVES (2) 7. VOTE-SEEKING GAME PLAN BUBBLY (2) VOTE-SEEKING GAME PLAN BUBBLY (2)

This day in history

- JAN 28, 1547: Henry VIII dies. His nine year old son, Edward VI becomes King, and the first Protestant ruler of England.
- JAN 28, 1855: The first locomotive runs from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean on the Panama Railway.
- JAN 28, 1909: United States troops leave Cuba with the exception of Guantanamo Bay Naval Base after being there since the Spanish-American War.
- JAN 28, 1958: The Lego company patented their design of Lego bricks, still compatible with bricks produced today.
- JAN 28, 1986: Space Shuttle Challenger breaks apart after liftoff killing all seven astronauts onboard.

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FOR 36 MOS.†

GL Sport model shown



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NEW SALE PRICE
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PURCHASE FINANCING
FOR 36 MOS.†

Limited model shown



2009 **SONATA GL**

STARTING PRICE
~~\$21,995~~

NEW SALE PRICE
\$18,995* + **0%**
PURCHASE FINANCING
FOR 48 MOS.†

Limited model shown



2009 **TUCSON L**

STARTING PRICE
~~\$21,195~~

NEW SALE PRICE
\$19,995* + **0%**
PURCHASE FINANCING
FOR 60 MOS.†

Limited model shown



2009 **SANTA FE 2.7L GL**

STARTING PRICE
~~\$25,995~~

NEW SALE PRICE
\$21,995* + **0%**
PURCHASE FINANCING
FOR 48 MOS.†

Limited model shown

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GL 5-speed model shown

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